

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1. (currently amended) A collapsible steering column assembly for a vehicle, the assembly including, a steering column mounting bracket having, at a forward end thereof, a deformable component that supports a lower subassembly of said steering column and can collapse in the event of a vehicle crash thereby to absorb energy,

wherein the deformable component has a normal positional relationship with the mounting bracket in which it is restrained by two locating devices, each having at least one open slot in the mounting bracket and a locating pin on the deformable component that mates with the respective open slot.

2. (previously presented) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein the deformable component is unitary with the mounting bracket.

3. (previously presented) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein the mounting bracket supports an upper subassembly and said lower subassembly of the steering column.

4. (original) An assembly according to claim 3, wherein the upper and lower subassemblies are slidably mounted one on the other.

Claims 5-11 (cancelled)

12. (original) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein the deformable component comprises at least one stiff strip so configured as to provide a region of weakness about which the strip can be bent and thus collapsed upon receiving a compressive force along the length of the strip.

13. (previously presented) A collapsible steering column assembly for a vehicle, the assembly including, a steering column mounting bracket having at a forward end thereof a deformable component that supports a lower subassembly of said steering column and that can collapse

in the event of a vehicle crash thereby to absorb energy, wherein the deformable component comprises at least one stiff strip so configured as to provide a region of weakness about which the strip can be bent and thus collapsed upon receiving a compressive force along the length of the strip, and wherein said strip has one end that is joined to the mounting bracket and another end that is free, said free end of the strip forming a mounting for a pivot member.

14. (previously presented) An assembly according to claim 13, wherein the pivot member supports a universal joint bearing assembly of the steering column.

15. (previously presented) An assembly according to claim 1, further including a provision for rake and/or reach adjustment of the steering column.

16. (previously presented) A collapsible steering column assembly for a vehicle, comprising:

upper and lower subassemblies that are slidable one within the other;

the upper subassembly being slidably mounted on a fixed mounting bracket mountable on a vehicle body part;

the mounting bracket including, at its end remote from the upper subassembly, a deformable bracket supporting said lower subassembly and capable of deformation toward the upper subassembly so as to allow movement of said lower subassembly toward said upper subassembly in the event of a vehicle crash.

17. (previously presented) A collapsible steering column assembly for a vehicle, comprising:

upper and lower subassemblies that are slidable one within the other;

the upper subassembly being slidably mounted on a fixed mounting bracket mountable on a vehicle body part;

the mounting bracket including, at its end remote from the upper subassembly, a deformable bracket supporting said lower subassembly and capable of deformation toward the upper subassembly to absorb impact of a primary collision.

18. (new) The collapsible steering column assembly of claim 1, wherein said at least one open slot is a laterally open slot.